

April 29, 2010

Further Demonstrates Commitment to Cutting Federal Spending and Fiscal Responsibility

WASHINGTON, DC - This week, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) continued his commitment to fiscal responsibility by voting to block a pay raise for Members of Congress next year.

"During these tough economic times, when so many Upstate New Yorkers have seen a reduction in their hours or wages or even lost their jobs, it would be unacceptable for Members of Congress to allow themselves a pay raise," **said Arcuri**. "Congress can't seriously talk about reigning in spending in Washington and working to reduce our nation's debt, if we don't step up and lead by example. And that means coping with reality right now and refusing any pay raise."

The Cancel the Pay Raise for Members of Congress in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Act, H.R. 5146, of which Arcuri is a cosponsor, passed in both the House and Senate and will now be sent to President Obama to be signed into law. In addition to garnering broad bipartisan support, the measure has also been endorsed by The National Taxpayers Union and Citizens Against Government Waste. For FY 2011, Members were scheduled to receive a 0.9 percent adjustment, which would increase the base member salary by \$1,600.

Since taking office, Arcuri has worked to repeal the law that automatically increases the salary of Members of Congress each year. Last year, Arcuri cosponsored the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act for FY 2010 and voted to successfully block the FY 2010 pay raise saving taxpayers approximately \$2.5 million.

Arcuri has lead the charge to institute the same cost cutting and financially responsible budgeting in Washington as hard working families and small businesses across the country

have been forced to do. Last month, Arcuri introduced the Congressional Belt Tightening Act of 2010 which would cut salaries for Members of Congress and their office budgets by 5 percent next year. Arcuri led by example and tightened his financial belt by returning over \$120,000 (over 8%) of his official office budget to the U.S. Treasury in 2009 for Federal budget deficit reduction. Additionally, Arcuri's legislation would repeal the yearly automatic pay raises, which were approved by Congress in 1989, and require an up or down vote on all salary increases for Members of Congress.

Also this year, Arcuri sent a letter calling on President Obama to put a freeze on all non-defense discretionary funding in the President's FY 2011 budget proposal to Congress, and led debate and voted for "Pay-Go" legislation, which was signed into law by the President in February, that requires Congress and the President to account for increases in federal spending by requiring offsets or ways to generate needed revenue.

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